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COMPILED BY

MAJOR-GENERAL GEORGE COX, B.A.

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The British Esperantist

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BRITISH ESPERANTO ASSOCIATION

Vol. XXXIV, No. 471/472

JULY/AUGUST 1944

LA JARKUNVENO

Ankoraŭ pasis jaro, plua jaro de milito. Cirkonstancoj ne favoris nian Jarkunvenon en Birmingham; estis malfacilaĵoj multnombraj rilate al lokiĝo pri la Konferenco mem; tranokto por la partoprenantoj; vojaĝado; forpermeso de deĵoroj ĉiuspecaj, k.t.p. Tamen la Konferenco okazis, kaj ĉeestis 150 Esperantistoj, eĉ pli ol ĉe la lasta!

Por kelkaj Esperantistoj ĉi tiu kunveno estis la unua. Ni esperas, ke la sperto inspiris ilin vigle partopreni en la Esperanta vivo, kaj laŭvice instigi siajn grupojn. Esperantujo certe ne estas nur aro da klasoj kaj studrondoj. Pli valore ol tio, ĝi enhavas komunan spiriton. Viziti unu el niaj konferencoj estas eble la plej bona rimedo por enkonduki sin en tiun spiriton.

La Ĝenerala Kunveno—de kiu formala raporto sekvas—elmontris, ke spite la militon kaj aliajn malhelpojn, la movado estas eĉ pli forta ol antaŭe; kaj ke la lastatempa lingva rivaleco ŝajne helpas nian aferon. Nia membraro daŭre kreskas, kaj multnombraj lernantoj aliĝis la korespondajn kaj lokajn kursojn tra la lando.

Tio klare evidentiĝis dum la diskutado, kiu estis neordinare viveca. Tia intereso pri la oficialaj aferoj de la Asocio aŭguras bone. Espereble sekvos efika propagando ĉe la diversaj grupoj.

Interesa estas sperto de unu el la "novkonferencanoj", kiu skribis:

Mi eniris iom timeme la halon. Amaso da moviĝantaj homoj, junaj kaj maljunaj, belaj kaj plibelaj, babiladis tre rapide. Tro rapide! Certe mi neniam povos kompreni!

Tamen, post momento miaj oreloj ekkaptis vortojn. Junulo gestis per la brakoj antaŭ du junulinoj, dume parolanta tre klare kaj ege malrapide, "Mi . . . mi . . . mi estas . . ."

"Kio vi estas?" diris unu el la fraŭlinoj, ridante.

"Vi parolas flue, ĉu ne?"

"Tute ne," respondis la fraŭlino, "mi ne bone parolas, sed mi tre bone komprenas vin!!"

Tiam amiko mia venis kaj diris, "Ha . . . ha . . . jen vi estas! Nu! Renkontu Fraŭlinon X kaj Fraŭlinon Z!" De tiu momento mi parolis multe kaj komprenis preskaŭ ĉion.

Ŝajne mi renkontis Esperantistojn el diversaj landoj. Iafoje militista uniformo evidentiĝis tion, sed kelkfoje mi ne sciis al kiu landano mi parolas. Poste, dum la vespero, ĉio klariĝis, ĉar kelkaj el ili salutis nin en la nomo de siaj landanoj.

Bonvenaj estis la vortoj de saluto parolataj de niaj samideanoj alilandaj, kaj ni reciproke salutas:—

Belgujan (S-ino G. M. Coventry) ;
Aŭstrujan (S-ino P. Gessmann) ;
Usonon (S-ro J. D. Sayers kaj Leŭt.
 C. E. Simon) ; *Ĉeĥoslovakujan* (Leŭt.
 J. Tomčík).

Venu baldaŭ la tago, kiam ni povos
 ilin reviziti !

La Prezidantino de la B.E.A.,
 F-ino M. Jay, prezidis dum la vespero,
 kaj ni ĝuis diversan programon el
 piano-muziko (S-ro H. Smith,
 Leamington Spa) ; kantoj (F-ino E.
 Wheatley, Birmingham, kaj S-ro L. E.
 Cresswell, Leamington Spa) ; poem-
 legaĵoj (S-ro W. C. May, Wolver-
 hampton) ; kaj violonmuziko (S-ro
 H. Jacks, Rickmansworth). Ankaŭ
 tre ĝuindaj estis la Nederlanda Nacia
 Danco kaj Morris Jig de F-ino M.
 Harris kaj F-ino Simpson (Birming-
 ham) ; kaj la humora ŝarado aranĝita
 de S-ino B. Meredith (Birmingham).
 S-ro F. Parker (Burnley) prelegis
 humore pri spertoj "Sur la Tegmento
 de Eŭropo".

H. J. *

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham,
 on May 13th, 1944, at 3 p.m.

Present :—The President, the Hon.
 Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer, and
 about 150 members.

The Minutes of the previous meet-
 ing were read, approved, and signed.

Annual Report and Accounts—
 The Report and Accounts for 1943,
 as published in the March issue of the
 Journal, were unanimously adopted.
 In this connection considerable dis-
 cussion took place on various aspects
 of the Association's work, and
 particularly on methods of publicity
 and propaganda, in regard to which
 some useful suggestions were made
 by members.

A hearty vote of thanks was
 accorded to the Officers for their
 work during the year under review.

Officers and Council, 1944-45—

The following were declared elected :

President : Miss Margaret Jay.

Vice-Presidents : Prof. W. E.
 Collinson, Miss V. C. Nixon,
 Robert Robertson.

Honorary Secretary : Bernard Long.

Honorary Treasurer : Arthur. C.
 Oliver.

Councillors (1944-47) : E. W.
 Amos, Miss E. Ashby, Miss R. A.
 Davey, Rev. W. J. Downes,
 D. Kennedy, Miss A. A. Nicol.

Auditor—Mr. H. Milsom was re-
 elected Auditor for the year 1944.

Annual General Meeting, 1945—No
 invitations having been received for
 this meeting, the matter was left for
 decision by the Executive Committee.

MEMOROJ PRI LA B.E.A.

JARKUNVENO

Pro la ĉeesto de samideanoj eksterlandaj,
 la Jarkunveno estis kvazaŭ kongreseto ne
 nur nacia, sed vere internacia. Kaj ĉiu
 el ili sendube forportis klaran senton pri la
 efikeco en Britujo.

Mia ĉefa impresoj pri la aferkunsido estis
 pri la vigleco kaj rapideco de la diskuto.
 Post tre kontentigaj raportoj pri progreso
 en la pasinta jaro, la membroj detale
 kritikis, atakis, aprobis, aŭ malaprobis, la
 okazintaĵojn, kaj faris proponojn por pli
 vasta agado dum la venonta jaro. La
 progreso jam farita estas tre kuraĝiga, sed
 oni ne estos kontenta, ĝis atingiĝos pli alta
 grado de rekono por Esperanto en Britujo.

Por ni Usonaj Esperantistoj estis honoro
 kaj plezuro saluti la Britan Esperantistaron
 nome de niaj samlandaj samideanoj. Ni
 sentis nin bonŝancaj, ke la sorto nin venigis
 en ĉi tiun centron de Esperanta vivo. Niaj
 vortoj nur tro malforte esprimis nian
 admiron por tiu fortika komunumo Esper-
 antista, kiu sukcesis pligrandigi siajn vicojn
 eĉ en la teruraj tagoj, kiam falis la bomboj,
 kaj kiam al ni eksterlande ŝajnis, ke la tuta
 mondo pereas. Tamen el la cindroj de la
 ruinaĵoj ekstaris pli fortaj organizoj lokaj
 kaj nacia ; kaj ankaŭ I.E.L. plifortiĝis per
 senlaca kunlaborado. Estas ne troigita
 espero, sed simpla fakto, ke la Brita movado
 estos al niaj suferantaj samideanoj en
 Eŭropo granda helpo kaj apogo en la
 postmilitaj tagoj, same kiel ĝi ja estas al ni
 en Ameriko.

C. E. SIMON (Cleveland, Ohio)

COMMON SENSE & BASIC ENGLISH

By GEORGE H. ELY

Reprinted, with slight alterations, by kind permission of the Editor and Mr. G. H. Ely, from the Spring, 1944, number of "English," the magazine of The English Association

Let it be granted—it cannot be proved within a generation or two—that an international language would be a boon to mankind, and that, of existing natural languages, English is the best suited for universal use, not because it is spoken in one form or another by 200 millions of people—others, I believe, are spoken by more—but because it has already splashed over into every part of the world. The proposition to be considered is that the labours of the foreigner in learning English would be lightened by the use of the new-fangled form known as Basic.

There is widespread misunderstanding about the phrase "Basic English." Taking *basic* in its natural sense, many people suppose that it denotes the essential elements, the bare bones, so to speak, of the magnificent body of our language. But it is nothing of the sort, as we shall see. "Basic" is compounded of the initials of five words, say the promoters of the system—British, American, Scientific, International, Commercial. Being clever men, they cannot be presumed to have been unaware of the likelihood of the misapprehension that has actually arisen, even though it tends to their advantage.

What then is Basic English? It is the invention of a Cambridge philosopher, Mr. C. K. Ogden, who claims that all that is necessary for a working knowledge of English, adequate for inter-communication among foreigners from China to Peru, and between foreigners and Englishmen, is a vocabulary of 850 words, comprising 600 nouns, 150 adjectives, and 100 "operators"—which include pronouns, adverbs, prepositions, etc., and 18 verbs. Let us examine the system in the light of common sense.

Mr. Ogden does not explain the laborious process by which his selection must have been made, nor is it clear what principle he followed. To take some examples among the nouns: he admits *rat* but not *mouse*; *pot* but not *pan*; *cup* but not *saucer*; *plate* but not *dish*; *collar* but not *tie*; *door* but not *gate*; *friend* but not *enemy*; *snow* but not *frost*; *potato* but not *onion*. It cannot be "word-frequency", the principle on which English and other languages have been successfully taught for many years past, nor can the words have been chosen on the basis of "function", for functionally the words omitted are equal with those

admitted. Further, with the exception of the eighteen verbs that head the list of "operators", all verbs are eliminated, their office being filled by the combination of the operators with nouns and adjectives. For instance, in Basic English I do not live, but I am living, or I have existence; I do not die, but I go to my death, come to an end, or take my last breath. *Am, have, go, come, and take* are operators.

Now the assumption underlying this drastic reduction in the number of necessary words is that the foreigner's main difficulty in learning English is the enormous extent of its vocabulary. I do not think this is proved: Mr. Ogden produces no evidence in support of it. I am told by some who have had experience in teaching English that foreigners, especially Orientals, show a remarkable capacity for memorizing words, and that their chief difficulties are pronunciation and accentuation, idiomatic locutions, and grammatical structure—the same difficulties, in fact, as an Englishman encounters in learning a foreign language. To these difficulties may be added that arising from our unphonetic spelling, though I think that is probably exaggerated: there are not, for instance, a great number of words in which *gh* is sounded as *f*. The phonetic difficulty, in any case, is not tackled by Basic, e.g. *come* and *from*, with their differing sounds of the short *o*, are among the operators, and *cough* is so spelt.

But were the assumption as regards extent of vocabulary justified, one still has to ask, why throw out the verbs? Were we not taught in our childhood that the verb is so called because it is *the* indispensable word in a sentence? It is true that the mewling infant's first articulate utterances are nouns, but it uses verbs while still in the nursery:

One, two,
Buckle my shoe;
Three, four,
Knock at the door;
Five, six,
Pick up sticks;
Seven, eight,
Lay them straight;
Nine, ten,
A good fat hen.

Basic does not admit any of these verbs; and about the final verbless couplet it may be remarked parenthetically that Basic knows no hens, but only "female fowls".

Furthermore, as the foreigners who are to learn Basic, whether as children or as adults, will certainly have used many verbs in their native tongues, will they not expect to find them in English? Will not their enforced restriction to the few verbal operators not only cramp their style but engender the belief that English, if Basic is English, is a singularly limited, dull, inexpressive language, scarcely worth learning? Let me give some examples. The learner of Basic cannot "walk", but must "go for a walk"; or "run", but "go for a run"; or "swim", but "take a swim" (which, by the way, the *Basic Dictionary* defines as "a spell of natation"). He cannot either "rise" or "fall", but "get up" and "take a fall or a tumble"; he cannot "stand" or "sit", but "get on his feet" and "take a seat". He cannot "call", but "say a person's name loudly"; or "sing", but "give a song", and here the dictionary adds, as the equivalent of "She sings well", "She has a good voice", which would hardly satisfy the singing-master. He cannot "buy" or "sell", but must "give money for" and "give in exchange for money". He cannot "break" or "mend", but "make a hole or crack" and "put right". He cannot even "read" or "write", and the dictionary does not help one to discover what he may do; it gives *reading* and *writing* as Basic words, defining the former as "perusal" and the latter as "inditing", but does not tell the earnest Basic schoolmaster how he is to say "Read page 10, Smith", or "Jones minor, you must write more tidily".

It would be tedious to multiply examples, which might be given in hundreds: English is rich in expressive monosyllabic verbs, easy to say, easy to remember. The question recurs: why this abolition of the verb? If the nouns *living* (*life* is not admitted) and *death*, *reading* and *writing* are admissible, why not *live* and *die*, *read* and *write*? It cannot be through difficulties of conjugation, for *live* and *die* are quite "regular" (to use the old term) and *read* and *write* are no more "irregular" than *come* and *see* and the majority of the operators. There must be some reason besides Mr. Ogden's determination to crowd all his allegedly necessary words upon one sheet of note-paper, but what is it? Let me quote what he says: "The verb form . . . raises difficulties too great to be mastered at the outset, while even for those who are familiar with the intricacies of the system, irregularities of form in a foreign language overload the memory. Another objection is that verbs involve a wasteful vocabulary in the preliminary stages: by using the operators to the fullest possible extent, nouns and adjectives can be made

to do double work. Finally, verbs . . . may lead to confusion of thought at any stage of symbolization."*

To this the short answer may be: (1) Foreigners are accustomed to irregularities of form in their own languages far more intricate than anything in the English paradigm, which would indeed be child's play to many of them. Moreover, fourteen of the eighteen verbal operators are irregular in the formation of their tenses! (2) Surely there is no economy of words in using three, four, or more instead of one, as for instance, "get in the last of the grain" for "glean" (*Basic Dictionary*); and the use of the operators "to the fullest possible extent", with the overwork of nouns and adjectives, is, as I hope to show presently, likely to lead to strange periphrases and perversions. (3) Any word, improperly used, may lead to confusion of thought, but the replacement of verbs by operators and the double work exacted of nouns and adjectives are apt to lead to ambiguity and confusion of meaning, which may be antecedent to or consequent upon confusion of thought. A simple example of confusion occurs in the phrase quoted under (2) above. To "get in the last of the grain" means to reap the last field and carry the last loads of corn to the barn; gleaning, as every schoolboy knows, is a very different matter. Another example will show how Basic cannot avoid ambiguity. "I know" becomes in Basic "I have knowledge of", but any intelligent person can see that the two phrases are not identical in meaning. *I have knowledge of Mr. Ogden*, but I don't *know* him.

At this point let me attempt a practical illustration of the disadvantages the foreign learner of Basic would suffer. Imagine a foreigner (whom I will call Mr. Ming) coming to England for the first time, to spend a few days as guest in an English house. He has been taught English of the Basic sort, and on that ground has been commended to his English hostess (whom I will call Mrs. Brown) by a friend of hers in his own country. Mrs. Brown opens the door (Mr. Ogden would say "gets the door open"—prodigious effort!) in answer to his timid knock (the *Basic Dictionary* gives "blow full of fear").

"Mr. Ming? I am so *glad* to see you. I'm *afraid* your train was very late, and you *must* be tired after your long journey, but I *hope* it wasn't too *uncomfortable*. You'd *like* a wash, I'm *sure*, so I'll *show* you your room *at once*. We've no servants now, but you won't *mind carrying* your bag *upstairs* yourself."

* *Basic English*, pp. 53, 54.

Ming, bewildered by the rush of words, smiles amiably but says nothing, and follows his hostess to his room upstairs. She continues:

"I think you'll find everything you want. We've *central heating*, as you see, so the water ought to be at least warm. Soap, towels: yes. Come down as soon as you are ready and we'll have tea. My husband of course won't be home from the office for another couple of hours, so we can have a nice long chat before he arrives. How lucky it is that you have learnt English!"

And Ming is left wondering ruefully whether he has learnt English.

None of the words italicized is among Mr. Ogden's 850, but they are all simple everyday words, such as Mrs. Brown would naturally use. And it will be observed that they are not all verbs. I do not doubt that Mr. Ogden would find substitutes for all of them: his *Basic Dictionary*, for instance, gives *married man* for *husband* and *drying cloth* for *towel*: but I suspect that the Basic version would be wordy, stiff, and unnatural. And that leads to an important point. Every English person with whom Mr. Ming came in contact would have to learn Basic before he could be sure of making himself understood by the stranger. He would have to be constantly on guard, avoiding his natural modes of expression and seeking some way of conveying his meaning by using Mr. Ogden's operators to the fullest extent. There would be, in fact, two rival languages: one the free, vigorous, racy English of everyday use, the other the hobbled, arthritic, dreary product of Mr. Ogden's wayward ingenuity.

It is worth while here perhaps to look at a Basic version of a reputable piece of English. I have compared R. L. Stevenson's "Bottle Imp" word for word with the Basic translation made by one of Mr. Ogden's disciples.* As might be expected, all the Stevensonian aroma has evaporated—and Mr. Ogden, to do him justice, definitely disclaims literary quality: he is pre-occupied not with art but with science, not with literature but with commerce. That being the case, one wonders why he should have attempted to translate so stylistic a writer as Stevenson into a language that is essentially pedestrian. But leaving aside the question of style let us see whether the author's meaning has been faithfully conveyed.

In the very first sentence the operators come into play. "There was a man of the island of Hawaii whom I shall call Keawe", wrote Stevenson, and as *call* in Basic means, besides "say a man's name loudly", also

"give a thing a name", the translator writes "to whom I will give the name Keawe".

But for brevity and convenience I had better arrange some of the results of my comparison in parallel columns. It is not easy to select examples, for every one of the 73 pages of the translation has either blunders, or makeshifts, or wind-blown periphrases.

Here are a few:

R. L. S.

Basic

rich	moneyed
shadow	shade
try	put to the test
buy	give a price for
sell	let go, exchange
count	go over
find	make the discovery
wish	have need for
want	have a desire to get
dreadful	unnatural
ugly	disgusting-looking
nodded	gave a motion of the head
palaces	great and important-looking houses
ship's mast	high sail support
fortunate	smiled on by chance
must be kept	it is necessary to keep
brave and active	a lover of danger and a hard worker
told all	gave an account of everything
came to himself	got more normal
weep and groan	give way to crying and bitter thoughts
beard the devil	get the better of the imp
cleared the dish	made the dish clean
was astonished	had no words for it all
can break it	are able to get it broken
forgot the bottle	all memory of the bottle went out of his head
lie hidden in a cave	have their resting-place in a stone hollow
There must I go	that is where I will have to go
I have heard of you	I am conscious who you are
hope died in him	hope came and went in him
each envied the other	they had an equal desire to be like one another
great neighbours on the hill	important persons living on this slope
he who bought it could never sell it again	he who took it over had no hope of ever handing it on
my flesh shrinks from the accursed thing	physical disgust overcomes me when I see the unnatural thing
all at once he began to shake and sweat, for he was afraid	suddenly he was shaking and his skin was wet, because he was in great fear
Ah! queen of my heart, I'll venture my dear soul to win you	Ah! ruler of my heart, I'll put all my existence in danger to make you mine
the man was elderly, with a bald head and a black beard; and his face was heavy with sorrow, and he bitterly sighed	the man was quite old, with no hair on his head and a growth of black hair on his chin; his face was very sad and from his lips there came the sound of a man whose heart is bitter

Here you shall find errors, wastage of words, distortions, juggleries, turgid periphrases, sheer balderdash—enough to convince any Englishman that the translation is a travesty of the original. It is to be observed that all Stevenson's words and locutions are current in everyday English; they will all have to be learnt by the foreigner at one time or another if he is to

* *Keawe's Bottle*, by L. W. Lockhart.

feel at home with us. And I can find no evidence—Mr. Ogden himself gives none—that the foreigner, taught normal English on rational methods, will meet with any more difficulty in reading the original than in reading the translation. And there are rational methods, which, without any tricks or distortions, will enable the foreigner, in a relatively short time, to attain a knowledge of natural English that will suffice first for ordinary conversation, then for reading and writing on general subjects with reasonable ease. And if he has a bent for something above the English of the market or the office, in other words for literature, he will then have laid a sound foundation, and have nothing to unlearn.

That brings me to another point. Mr. Ogden repels with indignation and complacency the charge that the learner of Basic, if not too much discouraged to wish to proceed to standard English, will have much to unlearn. He even makes the preposterous claim that Basic is a ladder to fuller English. Nevertheless the charge is true. He will have to unlearn all that is specifically Basic: to forget all about operators and the fullest extent of their use, and recognize that English is constructed, not with a few hard-worked operators, largely meaningless without their attendant nouns, but with verbs, significant and colourful. If he is to attain to any degree of ease and assurance in speaking, reading, and writing ordinary good English he must learn that Englishmen walk and run, stand

and sit, plough and sow, reap and mow, buy and sell, lend and borrow, lose and find, fetch and carry, meet and part, laugh and sing, sigh and groan, begin and end, sink or swim, hit or miss, save life and kill, live and die, and do a hundred and one other simple things that Basic does not allow them to do.

I have forbore to carry my inquiries into commercial and scientific English, for which Mr. Ogden concedes special vocabularies, or into the Basic New Testament, the errors and infelicities of which would demand a separate excursus. I have confined myself to the elements, the fundamentals, the first steps that count: "for if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?" And it is painful to see publishers taking tumbles (as Mr. Ogden might say) over one another in their haste to exploit what may turn out to be the amazing, inexplicable indiscretion of a great Prime Minister. Books are being multiplied, not merely for the misdirection of the benighted foreigner, but unashamedly for the linguistic bedevilment of our own children. Our boys and girls are not to be nurtured in the legitimate English of their forefathers, but to be drilled in the misbegotten changeling idiom of Basic. Yet I have faith enough in the good sense of English teachers to believe that, when once they have carefully examined the pretensions of the upstart, they will withstand the specious enticements of its propagandists and hold fast to their English heritage.

"BASSIC CLASSIC"

A.P.H., in *Punch*, has devoted several articles to Basic, culminating on 26 April, 17 May and 7 June in some pages in which he represents himself as a humble student, with the famous 850 words on a sheet of note-paper, endeavouring with infinite labour to translate English into Basic. These humorous skits may well be more efficacious than many pages of learned argument in illustrating the inadequacy of the Basic list and the circumlocutions it involves. We quote a few phrases, but the articles should be read in full.

They have banged and bolted the door. They have made the door shut with a great sound, and they have put into the tight hole the piece of iron which keeps it shut.

All went merry as a marriage bell. All went with as much laughing as the bell of a church at which a man and a woman are being joined together.

She turns from their gaze, and weeps, for her heart in his grave is lying. She

makes a turn away from their long fixed looks, and makes her eyes wet, for her heart has been put on the floor of his death-place.

There came a big spider. There came a great example of a certain small insect which takes flies.

The hunter is home from the hill. He who goes after animals is back at his house from the sloping place.

Ring out the old, ring in the new. Make a sound with bells to say that the old is out, make a sound with bells to send in the new.

We have children, we have wives, and the Lord hath spared our lives. We have sons and daughters, we have women joined to us in church, and the Highest Person has kindly let us go on living.

For good-looking Annie Laurie I would put myself on the floor and make ready for death.

Peel's cry "I can see him" would have put an end to the sleep of those who were no more or made the desired brown animal come out from his hole in the morning.

INTERGLOSSA

Interglossa—Lancelot Hogben. 285 pp., Pelican Books.

Interglossa, the very latest attempt at an international language, is described by its author, Lancelot Hogben, as "a draft of an auxiliary for a democratic world order", and in his foreword he emphasizes the fact that he puts it forward as an agenda for a discussion. It is not, therefore, a language to *learn*, but a project to talk about, and "constructive criticism is invited from those who are not zealots of a particular faction."

Although it was designed "in the empty hours of fire-watching", it is quite a clever piece of work—as one would expect from a man of Hogben's world-wide reputation—but it is the work of the class-conscious Hogben of the "Dangerous Thoughts". He has outgrown his admiration for Basic English with its cumbersome circumlocutions, waded through a great deal of literature on international languages, and produced a synthetic laboratory specimen calculated to appeal to his pet class—the technocrats.

I think it is a reasonable conjecture that Hogben had what he considered to be a flash of inspiration when considering his technical dictionaries, and decided there and then to build up a new language round that idea. "Science has created a world-wide technical vocabulary", he says, "and as modern technology transforms everyday life, what was once the vocabulary of the laboratory becomes the vocabulary of the street corner." His vocabulary, though described as a Latin-Greek hybrid, therefore has "a Greek content enormous in comparison with that of earlier projects." Yet I cannot see the man in the street preferring, e.g., his *algo*, *bio*, *chloro*, *leuco*, *photo*, *pluto*, to the Esperanto equivalents *doloro*, *vivo*, *verda*, *blanka*, *lumo*, *prospera*.

Interglossa has a specially invented grammar somewhat similar to that of Basic English, with 20 "verboids", 417 "amplifiers", and 396 nouns, to be used in a rigid word order and with a special system of punctuation. Hogben rejects affixes, but uses in their place truncated forms of full words which are used in a compound noun, e.g.

culino-pe(rsona), cook; *duco-pe*, chief.

culino-ca(meri), kitchen; *hypo-ca*, cellar.

It is difficult to understand why Esperanto *suffixes* (which are really independent roots) should be rejected, but Interglossa *vocables* admitted. Why, for example, are *vocables* good, but *suffixes* bad, in the following: *bibo-do*, *bovi-do*, *scholo-do*, *vendo-do* (*trinkejo*, *bovejo*, *lernejo*, *vendejo*);

catalyso-pe, *patho-do ergo-pe*, *scholo-pe*, *typo-pe* (*helpisto*, *flegisto*, *instruisto*, *presisto*); *metro-ru*, *musico-ru*, *pylo-ru* (*Mezurilo*, *muzikilo*, *borilo*)?

The verboids are invariable, and tenses and moods are indicated by preposited adverb equivalents. Here is a specimen sentence:—

U domi; su pre gene gravito; habe mega palaeo.

The house that fell down was very old.

Pre gene gravito corresponds with the Esperanto *kolapsis*, and is a combination of the three ideas of past time (*pre*), becoming (*gene*), and falling (*gravito*).

Further examples:

P etendis sian manon: *U chiri de P pre kine ad-antero.*

P levis sian kapon: *U cephalo de P pre gene tropo a-supero.*

Esti aŭ ne esti: *Un habe bio allo u non habe bio.*

Nur en printempo: *zero tem no-cleisto blasto-tem.*

Barbo, plu gnatha tricha; fritilo: *lipi kulino-va; tondras, un urani acte bronto.*

Un heli kine ad-hypo=la suno subiras, (or) la subiranta suno.

Briefly, then, Interglossa is a Hogben Special Cocktail, and will provide some temporary mental stimulation for any language student. It is not a competitor which Esperanto need fear.

Hogben's exposition of his idea is not helped by his style, for he writes in such difficult language as to discourage the reader. Indeed, a friend of mine who is a secondary school Headmaster gave his copy of the book away half-read, as he "hadn't the time to unravel the meaning of the stuff".

W. A. GETHING

"The Worker Esperantist" (March) contains an article on Interglossa by Mr. J. Sulsky. Here are shortened extracts:—

Prof. Hogben invites criticism from those who are not zealots of a particular faction. Which means, that if you have given thought to the subject, and have already mastered and used an international language, your opinions are not wanted, because you have already become a zealot of a particular faction. . . .

To be of any social consequence a language has to be used. The more people use it, the greater its value. The larger the number of purposes to which it is applied, the greater becomes its range in nuance

and vocabulary. It is day-to-day use that gives life and growth to a language, whether constructed, or evolved through centuries. . . .

Unlike a shorthand or code, meant for private use or for the use of a limited group, a language is of social consequence. Therefore the introduction of a new language should be the result of absolute conviction that already existing ones cannot fulfil present or future needs. If undertaken lightly, it is an anti-social act, because of the confusion it is likely to cause. . . .

Prof. Hogben prefers a large Greek vocabulary to one mainly from Latin. So he proposes *mono* for "one" instead of *unu*, because *mono* can be recognized from *monogamy*; and *hypo* for "under" instead of *sub*, because it can be recognized from *hypodermic*. Similarly:—

<i>a</i> from <i>afferent</i>	<i>homo</i> from <i>homology</i>
<i>antero</i> from <i>anterior</i>	<i>iso</i> from <i>isosceles</i>
<i>e</i> from <i>efferent</i>	<i>tetra</i> from <i>tetrahedron</i>
<i>syn</i> from <i>syndrome</i>	<i>hepta</i> from <i>heptamerous</i>
<i>allo</i> from <i>allotropic</i>	<i>epi</i> from <i>epidermic</i>

See how many of the Interglossa words you can recognise from the English, and try them on your work-mates!

The project contains many silent letters (as in *bureau*), while several have the same sound (*c*, *ch*, and *q* having the sound of *k*).

Those of us who have visited Esperanto Congresses will be amused at Hogben's criticism of Esperanto. We know it lives and works. We have heard ordinary workers express themselves with greater fluency in Esperanto than some well-known scientists have in their mother tongue, and any Workers' Esperanto Group would welcome the opportunity of proving this.

Prof. Hogben with his Interglossa has done a regrettable disservice to the cause of international understanding. We hope that he will think again before he further develops his project.

LOCAL NEWS

Birmingham—The Public Opinion Action Group recently discussed the I.L. question. Opinions were divided on Basic, but unanimous for Esperanto, and it was decided "to enlist the support of local M.P.s" for it. *Esperanto Club*: 3.15, at 26 Bristol Rd., on 26 Aug., 16 Sept., 21 Oct., 18 Nov. *New Class* (Miss Chesterton): Thurs., Cambridge Rd. Methodist Church, King's Heath.

Croydon—On 26 May, Mr. C. F. Cockson advocated Esperanto at the International Language Club in Addiscombe Grove.

Denham, Bucks.—The local group (Sec., R. Spencer, Wimpey and Co., Tilehouse Lane) has tried successfully a new kind of play. The actors are silent, but two

announcers make comments, one in Esperanto, the other in English. The play would be lent if desired.

Huddersfield—Rambles: July 2, 29; Aug. 13, 26. Meeting on 15 July at 102 Gledholt Bank.

Lancs. and Cheshire Federation—70 members from 15 towns attended the Conference in Bury on 20 May. The Director of Education, presiding, expressed warm sympathy with the movement. *Next meeting*: W.E.A. Rooms, 62 Hope St., Liverpool.

London Club (153 Drummond St., N.W.1)—7.0–9.30. July 7, Neŭtralismo. 14, Historio de la Filmo. 21, Teatra Vespero. 28, Lewenhook. Aug. 4, Londono sub mikroskopo. 11, Recenzoj. 18, Amuzaĵoj. 25, Angla Karaktero. Classes: same place and evening; also at City Literary Institute, Stukeley St., Wed., Thurs., and Fri.

London, N.—Class (Mrs. Weston) on Tuesdays, at Friends' Meeting House, Waterfall Lane.

London: Service in Esperanto, 3.0, at St. Ethelburga's, 72 Bishopsgate, E.C.2, on 9 July (Rev. V. A. P. Hayman—Miss A. D. George) and 13 August.

Manchester—Meetings (2.30) at 64 George St., on 29 July and 26 Aug. A minor epidemic of marriages among the younger members. Congratulations and best wishes to all. *Week-end* (8–9 July), at Rose Grove, Charlesworth. *Ramble* to Bollin Vale, 12 August.

Reading—The Reading Esperanto Society has been reformed and meets on Wednesdays. Sec., Miss L. Lawton, 252 Whitley Wood Road.

Scotland—Mr. J. S. Roy moved a resolution at the A.G.M. of the Scottish Coop. Men's Guilds, 4 March, asking members to take an interest in Esperanto and learn it. Carried unanimously. Mr. Roy has also addressed Cambuslang Men's Guild and Shotts Y.M.C.A.

Sheffield—A well attended "Open Day" on 22 April. Esperantist scouts gave a song and sketch. The Society played *Box and Cox* in Esperanto and arranged many short talks and demonstrations, with an exhibition of Esperanto Literature (the Central Library lent 40 volumes). Good sales.

South Midlands—Next Federation Conference: 15 July, 3.0–7.0, at Howgills, South View, Letchworth.

Yorkshire—A successful Federation Conference on 6 May at Dewsbury. The highlight was a speech on *Esperanto and the Schools* by Mr. R. W. Hamilton, Head of Hemsworth Grammar School. *Next Meeting*: 15 July, at Saltaire, Bradford.

REQUIREMENTS OF AN IDEAL INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE

Theoretically, an ideal international language should be, among other things:

- 1 International. Neutral.
 - 11 In elements.
 - 12 In structure.
- 2 Natural. Neither artificial nor arbitrary.
 - 21 With natural roots.
 - 22 Developing on natural lines.
- 3 Living. Not a mere lifeless code.
 - 31 In world-wide use.
 - 32 Tested by long experience on a large scale in congresses and international use and everyday life.
 - 33 Capable of natural growth to any extent.
 - 34 Yet stable in form.
 - 35 Free from tendency to split into dialects.
- 4 Simple. Easily learned. Without difficulties.
 - 41 With small vocabulary.
 - 42 With few rules. Minimum grammar.
 - 43 Logical.
 - 44 Regular. Without exceptions.
 - 45 Without idioms.
 - 46 Phonetic (one letter, one sound; no silent letters).
 - 47 Adapted for fluent speech.
- 5 Concise.
- 6 Precise, clear.
 - 61 Able to express any desired idea or shade of meaning.
 - 62 Free from ambiguity.
- 7 Flexible. Elastic.
- 8 Artistically satisfying.
 - 81 Strong. Vigorous.
 - 82 Without monotony. Capable of variations in style.
 - 83 Euphonious.
 - 84 Musical. Suitable for song.
 - 85 Homogeneous.
 - 86 With a spirit and genius of its own.
 - 87 Suitable for all forms of prose literature.
 - 88 Suitable for poetry.
 - 89 With its own original literature.
- 9 In short: perfect in all respects.

Does Esperanto fulfil these requirements? The Library of the B.E.A. indexes detailed discussions on all these points, but they lie outside our present scope. We may note, however, the following lines of thought.

(a) A thoughtless critic can easily show that *in many of these respects Esperanto does not reach ideal theoretical perfection*. For example, **patrino** is not international. The meaning of the word **etulino** cannot be

guessed by a person who has not learned the language (this is actually brought forward as a serious argument!). In its Indo-European vocabulary Esperanto favours the West; in its agglutinative structure it favours the East. The accusative (and, in fact, almost everything in the language!) *could* be dispensed with somehow. The vocabulary *could* be far smaller: and certainly a Basic Esperanto of 1000 roots would do many times more than a Basic English with the same number. **Marko** has more than one meaning. With an effort one can invent Peter Piper sentences like **Ĉu ci scias ĉion?** which are not beautiful. Esperanto has not the Italian wealth of rhymes, nor the English wealth of roots. And so on.

The Esperantist may reply, firstly, that ideal perfection is unobtainable; and secondly, that no two thinkers agree on what is ideal perfection. This is demonstrated by the complete disagreement on all points among critics of Esperanto. And especially, that

(b) *Unfortunately, the virtues will not live together without compromise. To make Esperanto more ideal in any one respect is to make it less ideal in another.* **Matro** would be more international than **patrino**, but less regular. To compile an "international" vocabulary by taking (say) five roots from each of 1000 languages (as postulated by some critics!) would result in a hodge-podge equally unintelligible to all nations. Maximum internationality means minimum logic and regularity. To abolish such forms as **etulino** because they cannot be guessed by an outsider, is to destroy the ease of the language for the user, with its regularity, beauty, and literary power, and to try to force it into Western moulds foreign to its agglutinative character, with no compensating advantage whatever. If, for simplicity, all grammatical forms, and most roots, were abolished, Esperanto would become a mere pidgin, without flexibility, power, or beauty. If it were perfectly logical, it would be to a high degree artificial, rigid, complicated, and unfit for everyday use; a mere plaything for metaphysicians. If ideal beauty were the aim, a code could be constructed of vowels only (consonants being abolished as mere interruptions of the more beautiful vowel-sounds); but this would clash with most other requirements. A vast range of "poetical" synonyms is

incompatible with simplicity and a small vocabulary. And so on.

(c) But though in few respects can Esperanto (or any other language) claim "absolute" perfection, nevertheless *all the virtues are combined in Esperanto to the greatest possible extent. As an international language Esperanto is very near ideal perfection: in its own field it stands supreme. To "improve" it in any one direction would be to spoil it in another.*

(d) In short, *the minimum requirements for an international auxiliary language are that it should be free from irregularities, neutral for all nations, phonetic, concise, exact and unambiguous, logical, flexible, stable, serviceable for all purposes, and proved by the severest practical tests of long-continued and world-wide international use on a large scale in congresses and in other ways.*

In practice, Esperanto fulfils all these requirements, and fulfils them admirably. Basic does not fulfil any one of them. And this is true to a greater or less degree of all other international language projects.

(From the MS. of a book as yet unpublished).

Jarlibro de I.E.L. (Unua Parto)—Estas tre kontentige konstati, laŭ ĉi tiu utila libreto, ne nur, ke la prospereco de B.E.A. nature reflektiĝas en I.E.L. (ĉar pro militaj cirkonstancoj duono de la I.E.L.-anaro estas nuntempe Brita: en 1943 la cifero estis 2492 el 4859), sed ke la Ligo progresas ankaŭ en aliaj landoj; kaj plue, ke en 1943 estis membroj en 36 landoj kontraŭ 27 en 1942. Post Britujo, la landoj kun pli ol 100 membroj lastan jaron estis Svedujo (1336), Usono (269), Aŭstralio (165), Brazilo (165), kaj Svisujo (152). Do nia internacia organizaĵo estas en bona vojo al postmilita kreskado kaj efika laborado.

La nuna Jarlibro enhavas, krom multe da interesa informo kaj la laŭlanda adresaro de la Lokaj kaj Fakaj Delegitoj (entute 670, kontraŭ 598 en la antaŭa jaro), ankaŭ plurajn artikolojn pri la stato de nia movado en diversaj landoj. Estas plezurige vidi la reaperon de ĉi tiu sekcio, kiu, kune la delegita listo mem, helpas konvinki la leganton, ke li vere partoprenas la celadon kaj faradon de granda tutmonda rondo Esperantista. La Ĝenerala Sekretario de la Ligo, S-ro C. C. Goldsmith, meritas la plej koran dankon de ĉiu samideano pro lia senĉesa kaj sindona laboro, el kiu rezultis la nuna stato de la Ligo malgraŭ ĉiuj

malhelpoj altruditaj de la milito; li estas gratulinda ankaŭ pro la praktika arango kaj bona aspekto de la Jarlibro mem.

La Dua Parto aperos en la aŭtuno. Ambaŭ partoj iras al ĉiu Individua Membro de I.E.L.: ordinara membro de B.E.A. povos fariĝi tia, kaj ricevi ilin, kontraŭ plua pago de 4ŝ.

VERDANO

"C.T.C. Gazette" (May) remarks *re* Basic: "The Prime Minister is jogging along on the hobby horse to anglicize the world. . . . To foist English (basic or other) upon others is like claiming in a card game to hold all the trumps. Contrast this with the linguistic equality achieved by those who use a neutral language like Esperanto, which has shown for over 50 years that it really does work."

"Aidania" (organ of the missionary Guild of St. Aidan) in its Easter number reports that its membership by a vote of 98.5% in favour agrees that Esperanto should be officially adopted by the Guild. An article *The Promise of Esperanto* puts the case for Esperanto very clearly. The Guild Motto is *Per Etoĵ Servi*. Address: The Rectory, Chilton Cantelo, Yeovil, Somerset.

B.L.E.A. reports: "Anonceto en *The British Esperantist* venigis tiom da respondoj, ke tute ne eblis sendi tujajn respondojn."

"How do you do?" A Present-day Conversation. Nova kaj tre taŭga propagandilo. 4pp., 2ŝ. por 100.

Problemo (J. M. Baxter). Petro kutime veturas fervoje de Londono al vilaĝa stacio: tie lia ŝoforo alvenas samtempe, kaj veturigas lin al lia domo. Iun tagon Petro alvenis la stacion unu horon pli frue, ol kutime. Li do ekmarŝis hejmen, kaj, renkontante la aŭton survoje, atingis la domon 15 minutojn pli frue, ol kutime. Li marŝis po kvar mejloj en horo. Diru la rapidon de la aŭto. (*Solve en la proksima numero*).

Tutmonda Junular-Organizo—La *Bulteno* nun aperas en pli alloga formo, presita kaj ilustrita. Gratulon.

Youth Clubs of various kinds are springing up everywhere. A member points out that these offer a good field for propaganda. They welcome proposals for their programmes. A travel talk, introducing Esperantist experiences, might well lead to a request for a talk on Esperanto.

An Esperanto Service was held in St. Oswald's Church, Hebburn, Co. Durham, on 4 June, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. Harrison, M.A.

"Elm Park WEA Review" (May) has an excellent article by K. R. Sturmer: *Basic English: a Critical Examination*.

"Per Unu Voĉo" is a new magazine published in Esperanto, English, and Afrikaans, by the Workers' Esperanto Fellowship (P.O. Box 7356, Johannesburg). Full of interesting matter and wide in outlook, it should greatly help the local movement.

"Kaŝitaj Radikoj"—In describing this game (p. 116) we said that in the word *Esperanto* there were at least 75 Esperanto roots. The Rev. D. W. Robson sends a list of 166 roots in this word, exclusive of grammatical endings, letter-names, and affixes.

Esperanto in Enemy Countries—It is not easy to get news. We have, however, received *via* Portugal a copy of *Hungara Heroldo* (with a *Bulgara Aldono*) (24 pp.), dated December, 1943. This is well illustrated, and full of interesting information about these and other countries, from which it is clear that in them also local Esperantists are keeping the flag flying bravely till happier times.

British and Foreign Bible Society statistics record the issue of 10,455 *La Sankta Biblio*, 31,780 *Nova Testamento*, and 20,250 other portions of Scripture in Esperanto.

In the Middle East—*Coulsdon Times* (5 May) tells how Mr. E. P. Ockey has utilized Esperanto in the countries he has passed through. "Esperanto," he says, "has gone a long way towards easing life here. I have made local contacts through Esperanto which would otherwise have been impossible; and instead of being a stranger in a strange land, I have been a welcome visitor. One of my pals, who spoke the language of the country, nevertheless found the greatest difficulty in making himself understood, because of the many variations in local dialects. But in Esperanto, of course, we found no dialect difficulty."

"La Kvakera Rondiranto"—Ni vidis numeron de ĉi tiu nova manuskripta gazeto, kiu estas ĉiurilate altkvalita. Kvakeraj samideanoj emaj kaj kapablaj partopreni skribu al W. K. Robinson, Melton House, Dulverton, Somerset.

En la lernejo—Diru al mi, Joĉjo, kio estas kanibalo?—Mi ne scias, fraŭlino.—Nu, se vi manĝus viajn gepatrojn, kio vi estus?—Orfo, fraŭlino.

Cambridge Union Society (1 May) debated the motion: *That this House approves of the Government's policy with regard to Basic English*. It was lost by 5 Ayes to 13 Noes.

N.E.F. CONFERENCE ON AN I.A.L.

On 3 June, in London, the New Education Fellowship held a six-hour conference on the I.A.L. problem. 150 were present.

Dr. F. Bodmer surveyed the situation. Dr. H. S. Hatfield advocated *Basic* (which—he admitted—he could not easily speak, but could dictate) as a means of written communication and a step towards English. Prof. L. Hogben regarded *Interglossa* as an unfinished project to show right lines. Pioneers like Zamenhof had not realized the importance of scientific terminology, and were hampered by Aryan grammar. Mr. R. Dutton showed the possibilities of *Speed-words* in the way of brevity and word-building. Mr. H. Jacob compared two schools of thought: one (*Esperanto-Ido*) aiming at regularity and logic; the other (*Interlingua-Occidental*) preferring naturalness at their expense. Others spoke for *simplified English spelling* or other schemes.

The speaker for *Esperanto* said that though there were countless projects on paper, all conflicting, without life or literature, mere museum mummies, *Esperanto* lived and thrived. *Esperanto* met all the requirements of an ideal I.L., other schemes did not. Both in theory and in practice *Esperanto* represented the survival of the fittest. Part of this paper is printed in this issue (pp. 137-8.)

The chair was taken very ably by Mr. J. A. Lauwerys. No vote or decision was attempted, but the N.E.F. may issue an informative impartial leaflet on the subject.

Esperantists were well in evidence, and made many valuable contributions based on practical experience. One realized from the meetings that *Esperanto* was the only candidate that had passed the stage of theory and become a living language in world-wide use; and that the advocates of some other schemes did not in fact aim so much at a spoken language as at an artificial code.

MEMBERS SERVING IN H.M. FORCES

Members serving in His Majesty's Forces are asked to register with the Association a permanent address, such as their home address or that of a relative, from which they are certain that letters and other communications will be forwarded to them. They are specially asked not to register military addresses, since these may be subject to frequent changes.

NASKIGOJ

Spence—Je 10 Junio, al Edward kaj Nancy Spence, "Felando", 20 Carnanton Rd., Walthamstow, filino, Margaretta Fay.

Woodruff—Je 19 Majo, al Ges. E. W. Woodruff, 2 Cheam Rd., Sutton, filo, Anthony William.

MORTOJ

Fairman—Je 29 February S-ro C. A. Fairman ("Blondulo"), Fratulo de B.E.A., kaj dum multaj jaroj Kasisto de B.E.A. kaj de la Londona Esperantista Klubo.

Goodliffe—Je 26 Januaro, 75 jara, Frederick Arnold Goodliffe, Pioniro en Letchworth de 1911, li eldonis gvidfolion de Letchworth, kaj iniciatis grandskalan vendon de Esperanta Sapo propagande.

RICHARD H. GEOGHEGAN

Kun granda bedaŭro ni jam anoncis la morton de S-ro Geoghegan (pr. *Gejgn*) en Alasko, 27 Oktobro, 1943. Li naskiĝis en Irlando, 8 Jan., 1866, kaj edukiĝis ĉe la Moravia Lernejo en Fullneck, Yorks, kie oni ankoraŭ konservas lian nomon en la registro. Li studis filologion en Oxford, 1833-7; kaj premiĝis pri la Ĉina lingvo. Li servis en la Fako de Fremdaj Aferoj de la Japania registaro, 1893-1900; estis Brita Konsulo en Washington, 1900-1; kaj restis de 1902. Ŝtata stenografiisto en Alasko.

La unua Angleparolanta Esperantisto, li korespondis kun Zamenhof jam en Novembro, 1887 (Esperantisto 264 en la *Adresaro*), kaj poste kun Grabowski, de Wahl, kaj aliaj pioniroj. La unua, kun kiu li parolis Esperante, estis Trompeter, kiu lin vizitis ĉ. 1890. Per brulego en 1904 li perdis ĉiujn dokumentojn, kaj sian plenan kolekton de ĉiuj libroj kaj gazetoj aperintaj en kaj pri Esperanto ĝis tiu dato. Li tradukis: *Dr Esperanto's International Language* (Biblioteko 5, 1889); *Complete Instruction Book* (Biblioteko 52); *A Few Words on the International Language* (Biblioteko 98), *La Rubaiyat* (Omar Khayyam) 1908.

S-ro Geoghegan bone sciis ne nur la Irlandan kaj la Anglan lingvojn, sed ankaŭ la Francan, Germanan, Hispanan, Italian, Rusan, Ĉinan, Japanan, kaj Sanskritan, kune kun la Hebrea, la antikva Greka, kaj la Egiptaj Hieroglifoj. Li majstris ankaŭ multajn Indianajn kaj Alaskajn dialektojn (Ĉipeña, Salish, Jakima, Nootka, Kalapuja . . .) kaj la lingvon de la Eskimoj. La Usona Registaro eldonis lian

gramatikon kaj vortaron de la lingvo Aleŭta. En B.E. (Feb. 1935) ni presigis tradukon el lia plumo de *Ho, mia kor'* en la lingvon Ĉinuk, kun interesa priskribo de tiu lingvo. Li sciis diversajn stenografiojn, kaj interesiĝis pri Volapük kaj aliaj projektoj internacilingvaj. Li eĉ korespondis kun Foster en Ro. Ni vidis longajn leterojn liajn al S-ro Spackman en Corsham, Wilts, kiuj meritas plej zorgan konservadon pro sia altgrada intereso kaj mirinda kaligrafio.

Entute S-ro Geoghegan estis ne nur la unua Anglalingva Esperantisto, sed ankaŭ unu el la plej kleraj lingvistoj sur la terglobo. Lia entuziasmo por Esperanto neniam velkis ĝis lia morto. Li tre forte protestis kontraŭ la tendenco enkonduki nenecesajn neologismojn, kun la vana celo provizi Esperantan radikon por ĉiu nacia koncepto. Tiamaniere ni baldaŭ atingus leksikonon el 500,000 radikoj! Artikolo lia pri tiu temo aperis en B.E. en Majo, 1935. Ni posedas alian samcelan, kiun ni esperas presigi, kiam eble.

"The Cambridge Review" (29 April) has two articles of special interest.

In one, Juan Mascaró condemns Basic English outright, but pleads for Simple English that shall be normal and correct. Basic does not solve the problem of teaching English by confusing *You shall not steal* with *You will not steal*, and "by deciding that mistakes in English shall be compulsory". He has some good words for Esperanto, as "internationally, far easier than Basic. . . . Its grammar is clearness itself, and absolutely logical and regular. . . . In spite of its simplicity, Esperanto can amazingly express subtle shades of thought." Unfortunately, Esperanto is "artificial", "without colour, perfume, taste, or life". We hope that Mr. Mascaró will pursue his Esperanto studies a little further, when he will learn better: he is not far from the Kingdom.

The other is *Some Defects of Basic* by Miss Enid Welsford, who enlarges on Mr. Young's criticisms already reviewed on p. 107. "Will an African, ignorant of the Bible, get a clear idea of the second temptation from the following lucid account?—*The Evil One took him to the holy town, and said to him, If you are the Son of God, let yourself go down. How? By a rope or outside ladder?*" "To teach a foreigner to say *You have knowledge that I have love for you* instead of *You know that I love you* is to give him an altogether misleading idea of real English."

Notes from the Office

Literary Competitions—The entries for the Competitions announced at the beginning of the year were mostly of considerable merit, and the awarding of the prizes was rather difficult, especially in the case of the Original Stories. The results are as follows:—

Original Short Story—First Prize of 21s., R. Murray (Caversham). Additional Prizes of 10s. 6d. each, Miss E. de B. Daly (South Zeal, Devon) and T. Pendlebury (Blackpool). The following receive Honourable Mention: Rev. J. S. Dinwoodie (Pittenweem), T. Fraser (Kirkcaldy), H. Jacks (Rickmansworth), T. Johnson (Edinburgh), F. G. Rayer (Longdon, Glos.), Rev. D. W. Robson (Chesterfield).

Original Article—First Prize of 21s., Miss E. de B. Daly (South Zeal, Devon). Additional Prizes of 10s. 6d. each, Miss E. M. Neale (Leeds) and Rev. D. W. Robson (Chesterfield). Honourable mention: J. M. Baxter (Glasgow), Miss N. Hanson (Halifax), Rev. D. W. Robson (Chesterfield), H. Rusby (Whitley Bay).

It is hoped to publish several of the manuscripts in due course in either *The British Esperantist* or *Esperanto Internacia*.

Books—Book stocks continue to dwindle, and members should note that the following are now out-of-print:—*Rimvortaro Esperanta*, *La Karavano*, *Kantaro Esperanta* (M. C. Butler).

On the other hand, the following are again available:—*Libro de Komuna Preĝo*, Parts 1 and 2, 8d. each, postage 1d., *Gregg Shorthand in Esperanto*, 1/6, postage 1d.

Basic English—A reprint of the article *Common Sense and Basic English* on pages 131–134 is now available, price 6d. dozen post free.

C.C.G.

A DISCLAIMER

Wandsworth Borough Esperanto Institute

Letters and advertisements asking for funds and support for this organization have recently appeared in the public press. In view of enquiries received at the Office, and consideration given to the matter by the Council, it is thought desirable to make it clear that the British Esperanto Association is in no way responsible for these announcements.

MARGARET JAY, *President*.

BERNARD LONG, *Hon. Secretary*.

ARTHUR C. OLIVER, *Hon. Treasurer*.

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2d. per word. Minimum 2/- per issue. **Prepaid.** Copy must be received at our offices by the 6th of the previous month.

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S.B.E.T. is the Esperantist Teachers' Society. Particulars (2d.) from Miss V. C. Nixon, 183 Woodlands Park Road, Birmingham 30.

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Wanted—La Faraono, Jarmiloj Pasas, Cezaro, Malgranda Johano, La Fundamento, Nova Sento. State condition, price. J. M. Baxter, 28 Mansionhouse Rd., Glasgow, S.1.

All enquiries about the **Workers' Esperanto Movement** should be addressed to: S.A.T.E.B., 79 Bent Street, Manchester 8.

Bezonataj—ekzempleroj de *La Venecia Komercisto* kaj *Makbeto* en bona stato. Sendu prezon al E. R. Virgo, 63 Bethulie Road, Derby.

To Sussex Esperantists—A full stock of Esperanto textbooks and reading matter always in stock. Hayward, Bookseller, 7, 8, 9, Station Street, Lewes.

Ofertu Romano de San Michele, Munthe, al Londona Esperanto-Klubo, Tallant Hall, Drummond St., N.W.1.

British Labour Esperanto Association seeks your co-operation. "Ruĝa Esperantisto" 1/- post free 4 issues. Particulars, B.L.E.A., 27 Buccleuch St., Edinburgh.

"Tam o'Shanter" in Esperanto—2/6 a dozen from J. French, 9 Heriothill Terrace, Edinburgh.

Wanted—*Esprimo de Sentoj en Esperanto* and others by Privat and Cart. Hunter, 15 Temple St., Rugby, Warwickshire.

Per Unu Voĉo—Read the monthly bulletin of the Workers' Esperanto Fellowship—a free forum for all Esperantists. Yearly subscription 3/-. Write for a free copy to: L.E.K., Box 7356, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Kio estas Pensologio?—Serio de 12 Libretoj: *Klarigaj Vortoj* donos respondon. Sendu kvar pencojn por unuaj tri numeroj. Hipsley, 17 Abbots Road, Birmingham 14.

Lost—Esperanto book *Romano de San Michele* by Axel Munthe, 15th May, in train at Epsom Station 7.30 a.m. Sentimental value. Reward 10/-. A. W. Stevens, 71 Elm Grove Road, Barnes, London, S.W.13.

SHALL WE ATTAIN OUR GOAL?

The response to the appeal for our Advertising and Publicity Fund continues to be very good, but we still have a long way to go before we reach the sum aimed at, namely, £1,000. The list below gives the names of those who helped in this way in April and May, and to them we tender sincere thanks.

Meanwhile, we are continuing and extending our advertising. We are constantly trying new periodicals and, in addition, we have decided to continue for another six months the poster advertising on the London Underground. A new venture is a large painted advertisement board at Cannon Street Station, London, and if this proves successful—and funds permit—we may try to extend this form of publicity.

Progress continues to be satisfactory. The number of enrolments for the Popular Course now exceeds 3,500, while the following figures speak for themselves:—

1943: Net subscription income *for the whole year* .. £646

1944: " " " *to May 31st* .. £774

Sales to May 31st, 1943, £805; 1944, £945.

We therefore appeal once more for the continued and enthusiastic support of every member who is in a position to help.

C.C.G.

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DONATIONS TO B.E.A. DURING APRIL AND MAY

General Funds—J. P. Nix, 3/-; W. J. Proud, 5/-; Miss N. Ford, 20/-; A. Prince, 20/-; Miss A. L. Beveridge, 6/-.

Motor Car and Propaganda Fund—M. M. Wiles, 2/11; L. Kuyk, 1/3; R. L. Mytton, 1/-; W. F. Westmancote, £25; E. J. Watson, 6/-; Miss N. Ford, 20/-; Miss E. Garraway, 2/6; Leamington Esp. Soc., 20/-; A. Prince, 10/-.

These donations are acknowledged with grateful thanks.

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Advanced Examination, Written Part—C. W. Sinclair, *Liverpool*.

* *With Distinction.*

COUNCIL MEETING

at Birmingham, May 13th, 1944

Present—The President (in the Chair), the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer, A. A. Ager, Miss E. Baldwin-Smith, J. M. Baxter, Miss A. L. Borel, G. E. Collis, W. B. Currie, Miss R. A. Davey, Rev. W. J. Downes, J. R. Grocott, Miss M. C. Groen, Mrs. E. M. Kendrick, R. Murray, W. K. Nash, Miss V. C. Nixon, Mrs. E. C. Oliver, G. L. Preedy, Miss S. V. Reed, Mrs. E. Warren, Miss E. M. Wheatley, Miss N. Wilford.

In attendance—The Acting Secretary, the Education Secretary.

Finance and Sales—Figures submitted by the Acting Secretary showed that there had been very considerable increases in Subscription income and in Sales as compared with the same period in 1943, and that even allowing for increased expenditure the outlook was satisfactory.

Fellows—Mr. J. Cresswell and Miss C. Waller were elected Fellows of the Association.

Examiners—The following additional Special Examiners were appointed:—Mr. P. Blaise (*Liverpool*), Mr. H. Blakey (*Leeds*), Mr. W. G. Phipps (*Cheltenham*).

Committees, 1944-45: The Executive Committee was re-appointed as follows:—The President, the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer, Miss R. A. Davey, E. D. Durrant, H. J. Harris, Miss V. C. Nixon, Robert Robertson, Mrs. E. Warren.

It was decided not to re-appoint the Education Committee in view of the fact that the work for which it was originally set up was now being effectively carried out by the Society of British Esperantist Teachers, with which the Association was in close collaboration. The Council placed on record its sincere appreciation of the services of Miss Nixon as the Secretary and Mr. Nowell Smith as the Chairman of the Committee.

Overseas Secretaryship—It was decided to abolish this post, as close relations with the overseas Empire were now maintained through the Office and a separate Secretary was no longer needed. Mr. W. K. Nash was heartily thanked for his services in this capacity.

CECIL C. GOLDSMITH, *Acting Secretary*